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1. A method to alleviate macular degeneration characterized by fluid leakage from new blood vessels in the macula of a patient comprising providing an effective amount of a photosensitive agent to the vessels and thereafter activating said agent with a low energy light to damage
- 5 said vessels, and
- directing to the macula a high energy light sufficient to generate heat to coagulate said fluid,
- thereby alleviating fluid leakage.

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2. The method of claim 1 wherein the low energy light is applied before the high energy light.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the high energy light is applied before the low energy light.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the photosensitive agent is selected from the group consisting of verteporfin, protoporphyrin, SnET2, NPe6, ATX-106, ICG, and BPD-MA.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the photosensitive agent is verteporfin activated at about 50 J/cm<sup>2</sup> at an intensity of about 600 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the high energy light is from an argon or diode laser.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the high energy light is applied in spots of sizes in the range of about 50  $\mu$ m to about 500  $\mu$ m.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein between about 50 to about 500 spots are administered.

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9. A method to improve visual acuity in an eye of a patient with macular degeneration characterized by fluid leakage from new blood vessels in the macula comprising

5 providing an effective amount of a photosensitive agent to the vessels and thereafter activating said agent with low energy light to damage said vessels, and

directing to the macula high energy light sufficient generate heat to coagulate said fluid.

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10. The method of claim 9 wherein the low energy light is applied before the high energy light.
11. The method of claim 9 wherein the high energy light is applied before the low energy light.
12. The method of claim 9 wherein the photosensitive agent is selected from the group consisting of verteporfin, protoporphyrin, SnET2, NPe6, ATX-106, ICG, and BPD-MA.
13. The method of claim 9 wherein the photosensitive agent is verteporfin activated at about 50 J/cm<sup>2</sup> at an intensity of about 600 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>.
14. The method of claim 9 wherein the high energy light is from an argon or diode laser.
15. The method of claim 9 wherein the high energy light is applied in spots of size in the range of about 50  $\mu$ m to about 500  $\mu$ m.
16. The method of claim 15 wherein between about 50 to about 500 spots are administered.

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17. A method to reduce recurrence of neovascularization in an eye of a patient having undergone photodynamic therapy (PDT) for macular degeneration comprising further providing to said patient laser coagulation therapy simultaneously or concomitantly with PDT.

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18. The method of claim 17 wherein the laser coagulation therapy is administered at a time selected from the group consisting of within a single treatment session, within four hours of PDT, within 24 hours of PDT, and ninety days after PDT.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein said PDT is administered at a time selected from the group consisting of within a single treatment session, within four hours of laser therapy, within 24 hours of laser therapy, and ninety days after laser therapy.

20. The method of claim 17 further comprising treating the patient having undergone PDT with plasmaphoresis.

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21. A method to reduce recurrence of neovascularization in an eye of a patient having undergone laser coagulation therapy for AMD comprising providing to said patient photodynamic therapy (PDT) simultaneously or concomitantly with laser coagulation therapy.

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24. The method of claim 21 further comprising treating the patient with plasmaphoresis after PDT.



25. A therapeutic method to slow progression of macular degeneration in a patient having or at risk for developing macular degeneration in an eye comprising treating said eye with both photodynamic therapy and laser coagulation therapy within an interval of ninety days.

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26. A method to minimize photosensitivity of a patient undergoing photodynamic therapy with a photosensitive agent comprising

providing an effective amount of the photosensitive agent to the vessels of the patient and thereafter activating the agent with a low energy

5 light, and

thereafter treating the patient with plasmaphoresis to reduce the concentration of the photosensitive agent in the vessels of the patient.

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27. The method of claim 26 wherein the patient is treated with plasmaphoresis within 24 hours of photodynamic therapy.

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